



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

NEWS RELEASE

California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region



Arnold
Schwarzenegger
Governor

11020 Sun Center Drive #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114
Phone (916) 464-3291 • FAX (916) 464-4645
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
9 October 2007

Contact: Bill Marshall
Storm Water Program Manager

Sacramento

Phone: (916) 464-4670

CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD PROPOSES \$250,000 FINE FOR SACRAMENTO REGIONAL COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT'S STORM WATER VIOLATIONS

Central Valley Regional Water Board Executive Officer Pamela Creedon has issued an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint to Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District for \$250,000 for clean water violations of its construction storm water permit. "This enforcement action is necessary to emphasize the importance of our permitting program. It protects our waterways from the impacts of runoff from public and private construction sites. This action is particularly important because it is being issued to a public agency; an agency that should be setting a standard that private industry can use as an example for ensuring compliance with our permit," said Pamela Creedon.

The violations stem from runoff from a sewer construction site discharged to Sacramento County's storm drainage system and then emptied into Morrison Creek and eventually into the Stone Lakes Wildlife Refuge. The construction was a new sanitary sewer pipeline along Bradshaw Road in southern Sacramento County. The Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District had engaged Mitchell Engineering to construct the project.

In November and December 2006, Regional Water Board staff inspecting the site found inadequate sediment and erosion control resulting in the discharge of muddy storm water. The discharge was measured at 45 times higher than background conditions. A biologist from the State Department of Fish and Game determined that the discharge was harmful to aquatic life in Morrison Creek.

Problems at the Bradshaw Road site were not the first time that the Sanitation District's contractors failed to provide adequate erosion and sediment control on construction sites. Due to repeated violations and discharges of muddy water the Regional Water Board's Executive Officer issued the Administrative Civil Liability Complaint.

The staff complaint is a proposed penalty. The Sanitation District may request a formal hearing and, if it does so, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board may consider the Complaint at its regular board meeting on 6 and 7 December 2007.